

Austin 4.1-1
Appl. No. 10/804,794
Response to Office Action dated August 18, 2005
Amdt. dated November 16, 2005



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1 1. (Currently amended) A stabilizing device for damping
2 vibrations in an object positioned on a surface, which
3 comprises:

4 (a) a bracket configured to connect to the
5 object;

6 (b) legs, each leg having a first end and a
7 second end with first damping material between the ends and
8 connected at the first end to the bracket; and

9 (c) side arms each having a first end and a
10 second end ~~with second damping material between the ends~~
11 and connected at the first end to the bracket and having
12 second damping material positioned on each side arm such as
13 to reduce vibrations in the bracket.

1 2. (Currently amended) The device of Claim 1 wherein a
2 forward arm having a first end and a second end forming a
3 longitudinal axis of the forward arm is connected at the
4 first end to the bracket, the forward arm having third
5 damping material ~~between the ends~~ positioned along the
6 longitudinal axis of the forward arm to reduce vibrations
7 in the bracket.

1 3. (Original) The device of Claim 2 wherein the ends of
2 each leg form a longitudinal axis of each leg and wherein
3 the longitudinal axis of one of the legs is at an angle of
4 approximately 90° to the longitudinal axis of the forward
5 arm.

1 4. (Original) The device of Claim 2 wherein the
2 longitudinal axis of the forward arm is parallel to a
3 longitudinal axis of the object when the object is
4 connected to the bracket.

1 5. (Original) The device of Claim 2 wherein the third
2 damping material is spaced apart from the first end of the
3 forward arm.

1 6. (Original) The device of Claim 2 wherein the forward arm
2 is connected to the bracket so that when the object is
3 connected to the bracket, the forward arm extends outward
4 from the bracket along the object.

1 7. (Original) The device of Claim 1 wherein the ends of
2 each leg form a longitudinal axis of each leg and the ends
3 of each side arm form a longitudinal axis of each side arm
4 and wherein the longitudinal axis of one of the legs is at
5 an angle of approximately 90° to the longitudinal axis of
6 one of the side arms.

1 8. (Original) The device of Claim 1 or 2 wherein a plate is
2 pivotably connected to the bracket and wherein the legs are
3 connected to the bracket and the object is connected to the
4 plate so that the object can be pivoted while the legs
5 remain stationary.

1 9. (Original) The device of Claim 8 wherein the forward arm
2 is connected to the plate.

1 10. (Original) The device of Claim 1 or 2 wherein the
2 bracket includes a first leg and a second leg connected
3 together at an angle by a center portion, and wherein one
4 of the legs is connected to the first leg of the bracket
5 and the other of the legs is connected to the second leg of
6 the bracket.

1 11. (Original) The device of Claim 10 wherein one of the
2 side arms is connected to the first leg of the bracket and
3 the other of the side arms is connected to the second leg
4 of the bracket.

1 12. (Original) The device of Claim 1 or 2 wherein the first
2 damping material includes a plurality of separable damping
3 units.

1 13. (Original) The device of Claim 12 wherein at least two
2 of the separable damping units are constructed of damping
3 material having different damping characteristics for
4 damping different vibration frequencies.

1 14. (Original) The device of Claim 1 wherein the second
2 damping material is spaced apart from the first ends of the
3 side arms.

1 15. (Currently amended) A stabilizing device for damping
2 vibrations in a firearm positioned on a surface, which
3 comprises:

4 (a) a bracket configured to connect to the
5 firearm;

6 (b) legs, each leg having a first end and a
7 second end with first damping material between the ends and
8 connected at the first end to the bracket; and

9 (c) side arms each having a first end and a
10 second end ~~with second damping material between the ends~~
11 and connected at the first end to the bracket with second
12 damping material positioned on each side arm to reduce
13 vibrations in the bracket.

1 16. (Original) The device of Claim 15 wherein the ends of
2 each leg form a longitudinal axis of each leg and the ends
3 of each side arm form a longitudinal axis of each side arm
4 and wherein the longitudinal axis of one of the legs is at
5 an angle of approximately 90° to the longitudinal axis of
6 one of the side arms.

1 17. (Original) The device of Claim 15 wherein the legs are
2 pivotably connected to the bracket.

1 18. (Original) The device of Claim 15 wherein a plate is
2 pivotably connected to the bracket and wherein the firearm
3 is connected to the plate so that the firearm can be
4 pivoted while the legs remain stationary.

1 19. (Original) The device of Claim 15 wherein the second
2 damping material is spaced apart from the first ends of the
3 side arms.

1 20. (Original) The device of Claim 15 wherein the bracket
2 includes a first leg and a second leg connected together at
3 an angle by a center portion, and wherein one of the legs
4 is connected to the first leg of the bracket and the other
5 of the legs is connected to the second leg of the bracket.

1 21. (Original) The device of Claim 20 wherein one of the
2 side arms is connected to the first leg of the bracket and
3 the other of the side arms is connected to the second leg
4 of the bracket.

1 22. (Original) The device of Claim 15 wherein the first
2 damping material includes a plurality of separable damping
3 units.

1 23. (Original) The device of Claim 22 wherein at least two
2 of the separable damping units are constructed of damping
3 material having different damping characteristics for
4 damping different vibration frequencies.

1 24. (Original) The device of Claim 15 wherein the second
2 ends of the legs are provided with feet constructed of a
3 third damping material.

25. (Cancelled)

1 26. (Original) The device of Claim 15 wherein there are
2 three legs spaced apart approximately 60° about a vertical
3 axis of the bracket.

1 27. (Currently amended) A stabilizing device for damping
2 vibrations in a firearm positioned on a surface, which
3 comprises:

4 (a) a bracket configured to connect to the
5 firearm;

6 (b) legs, each leg having a first end and a
7 second end with the first end of each leg connected to the
8 bracket, each leg having first damping material between the

9 ends; and

10 (c) a forward arm having a first end and a second
11 end forming a longitudinal axis of the forward arm with the
12 first end of the forward arm connected to the bracket and
13 having second damping material ~~between the ends~~ positioned
14 on the forward arm to reduce vibrations in the bracket.

1 28. (Currently amended) The device of Claim ~~29~~ 27 wherein
2 the ends of each leg form a longitudinal axis of each leg
3 and wherein the longitudinal axis of one of the legs is at
4 an angle of approximately 90° to the longitudinal axis of
5 the forward arm.

1 29. (Original) The device of Claim 28 wherein the legs are
2 pivotably connected to the bracket.

1 30. (Original) The device of Claim 27 wherein the bracket
2 includes a plate pivotably connected to a bracket section
3 wherein the legs are connected to the bracket section of
4 the bracket and the firearm is connected to the plate of
5 the bracket so that the firearm can be pivoted while the
6 legs remain stationary.

1 31. (Original) The device of Claim 30 wherein the forward
2 arm is connected to the plate.

1 32. (Original) The device of Claim 27 wherein the
2 longitudinal axis of the forward arm is parallel to a
3 longitudinal axis of a barrel of the firearm when the
4 firearm is mounted on the bracket.

1 33. (Original) The device of Claim 27 wherein the second
2 damping material is spaced apart from the first end of the
3 forward arm.

1 34. (Original) The device of Claim 27 wherein the bracket
2 includes a first leg and a second leg connected together at
3 an angle by a center portion, wherein the forward arm is
4 mounted on the center portion of the bracket and wherein
5 one of the legs is connected to the first leg of the
6 bracket and the other one of the legs is connected to the
7 second leg of the bracket.

1 35. (Original) The device of Claim 27 wherein the forward
2 arm is connected to the bracket so that when the firearm is
3 connected to the bracket, the forward arm extends outward
4 from the bracket along a barrel of the firearm in a
5 direction opposite a stock of the firearm.

1 36. (Original) The device of Claim 27 wherein the first
2 damping material includes a plurality of separable
3 sections.

1 37. (Original) The device of Claim 36 wherein each leg has
2 at least two separable sections and wherein at least two of
3 the sections are constructed of leg damping material having
4 different damping characteristics for damping different
5 vibration frequencies.

1 38. (Original) The device of Claim 27 wherein the second
2 ends of the legs are provided with feet constructed of a
3 third damping material.

1 39. (Original) The device of Claim 27 wherein there are
2 three legs spaced apart approximately 60° about a vertical
3 axis of the bracket.

1 40. (Currently amended) A stabilizing device for damping
2 vibrations in a firearm positioned on a surface, which
3 comprises:

4 (a) a bracket configured to connect to the
5 firearm;

6 (b) legs, each leg having a first end and a
7 second end and connected at the first end to the bracket,
8 and configured so that the second end of each leg contacts
9 the surface, each leg having first damping material ~~between~~
10 ~~the ends~~;

11 (c) side arms, each arm having a first end and a
12 second end and connected at the first end to the bracket,
13 each side arm having second damping material ~~between the~~
14 ~~ends~~ positioned to reduce vibrations in the bracket; and

15 (d) a forward arm having a first end and a second
16 end and connected at the first end to the bracket and
17 having third damping material ~~between the ends~~ positioned
18 to reduce vibrations in the bracket.

1 41. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein there are
2 three legs spaced apart approximately 60° about a vertical
3 axis of the bracket.

1 42. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the ends of
2 each leg form a longitudinal axis of each leg and the ends
3 of each side arm form a longitudinal axis of each side arm
4 and wherein the longitudinal axis of one of the legs is at
5 an angle of approximately 90° to the longitudinal axis of
6 one of the side arms.

1 43. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the ends of
2 each leg form a longitudinal axis of each leg and wherein
3 the longitudinal axis of one of the legs is at an angle of
4 approximately 90° to the longitudinal axis of the forward
5 arm.

1 44. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the ends of
2 each leg form a longitudinal axis of each leg and the ends
3 of each side arm form a longitudinal axis of each side arm
4 and the ends of the forward arm form a longitudinal axis of
5 the forward arm and wherein the longitudinal axis of one of
6 the legs is approximately at a 90° angle to the
7 longitudinal axis of one of the side arms and approximately
8 at an 80° angle to the longitudinal axis of the forward
9 arm.

1 45. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the legs are
2 pivotably connected to the bracket.

1 46. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the bracket
2 includes a plate pivotably connected to a bracket section,
3 and wherein the legs are connected to the bracket section
4 of the bracket and the firearm is connected to the plate so
5 that the firearm can be pivoted while the legs remain
6 stationary.

1 47. (Original) The device of Claim 46 wherein the forward
2 arm is connected to the plate.

1 48. (Original) The device of Claim 46 wherein the side arms
2 are connected to the bracket section.

1 49. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the
2 longitudinal axis of the forward arm is parallel to a
3 longitudinal axis of a barrel of the firearm when the
4 firearm is mounted on the bracket.

1 50. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the second
2 damping material is spaced apart from the first end of the
3 side arms.

1 51. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the third
2 damping material is spaced apart from the first end of the
3 forward arm.

1 52. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the bracket
2 includes a first leg and a second leg connected together at
3 an angle by a center portion, wherein the forward arm is
4 mounted on the center portion of the bracket and wherein
5 each of the legs and each of the side arms is connected to
6 the first and second legs of the bracket.

1 53. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the forward
2 arm is connected to the bracket so that when the firearm is
3 mounted on the bracket, the forward arm extends outward
4 from the bracket along a barrel of the firearm in a
5 direction opposite a stock of the firearm.

1 54. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the first
2 damping material includes a plurality of separable
3 sections.

1 55. (Original) The device of Claim 54 wherein each leg has
2 at least two separable sections and wherein at least two of
3 the sections are constructed of damping material having
4 different damping characteristics for damping different
5 vibration frequencies.

1 56. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein there are a
2 plurality of forward arms and wherein the forward arms are
3 spaced apart and parallel.

1 57. (Currently amended) A stabilizing device for damping
2 vibrations in a firearm positioned on a surface, which
3 comprises:

4 (a) a bracket configured to connect to the
5 firearm;

6 (b) a leg having a first end and a second end
7 forming a longitudinal axis of the leg with the first end
8 of the leg connected to a center of the bracket;

9 ~~(c) the leg having first damping material between~~
10 ~~the ends~~ positioned on the leg to reduce vibration in the
11 bracket;

12 ~~(c)~~ (d) side arms, each side arm having a first
13 end and a second end with the first end of each side arm
14 connected to the bracket;

15 ~~(e) and each side arm having~~ second damping
16 material positioned on each side arm so as to reduce
17 vibration in the bracket;

18 ~~(d)~~ (f) a forward arm having a first end and a
19 second end and connected at the first end to the bracket;
20 and

21 (g) having third damping material ~~between the~~
22 ~~ends~~ positioned on the forward arm so as to reduce
23 vibration in the bracket.

1 58. (Withdrawn) A method for reducing vibration in a
2 firearm positioned on a surface, which comprises the steps
3 of:

4 (a) providing a stabilizing device including a
5 bracket, legs having a first damping material connected to
6 the bracket and side arms having second damping material
7 connected to the bracket;

8 (b) connecting the firearm to the bracket;

9 (c) positioning the legs of the bracket on the
10 surface;

11 (d) aligning the firearm with a target; and

12 (e) pulling a trigger of the firearm to hit the
13 target wherein the stabilizing device reduces the vibration
14 of the firearm to enable a more accurate shot.

1 59. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 58 wherein in steps (d)
2 and (e), the side arms reduce vibrations in the firearm in
3 a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the
4 firearm formed by a barrel of the firearm.

1 60. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 58 wherein a forward
2 arm extends outward from the bracket in a direction
3 parallel to a longitudinal axis of the firearm formed by a
4 barrel of the firearm and, wherein in step (e), the forward
5 arm reduces vibrations in the firearm parallel to the
6 longitudinal axis of the firearm.

1 61. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 58 wherein a scope is
2 attached to the firearm, wherein before step (d), the
3 firearm is aligned with a target using the scope and
4 wherein the stabilizing device reduces vibration of the
5 firearm and the scope to enable easier and better alignment
6 of the firearm with the target using the scope.

1 62. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 58 wherein the legs of
2 the stabilizing device are constructed of a plurality of
3 damping units removably connected together, wherein the
4 surface is vibrating and wherein in step (c), after
5 positioning the legs on the surface, the legs are removed
6 from the surface and the damping units of the legs are
7 removed or replaced with alternate damping units having
8 different damping characteristics and the legs are
9 positioned back on the surface to enable better reduction
10 of vibration.

1 63. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 58 wherein in step (e),
2 the stabilizing device reduces vibration in the firearm
3 caused by operation of the firearm.

1 64. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 58 wherein the surface
2 is vibrating and wherein in step (e), the stabilizing
3 device reduces a transfer of vibration from the surface to
4 the firearm.

1 65. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 64 wherein a scope is
2 mounted on the firearm, and wherein further in step (d),
3 the stabilizing device reduces the vibration of the firearm
4 and the scope so that the firearm can be aligned with the
5 target using the scope.

1 66. (Withdrawn) A method for reducing vibrations of a
2 firearm positioned on a surface, which comprises the steps
3 of:

4 (a) providing a stabilizing device including a
5 bracket, legs connected to the bracket having first damping
6 material, side arms connected to the bracket having second
7 damping material and a forward arm connected to the bracket
8 having third damping material;

9 (b) connecting the firearm on the bracket;

10 (c) positioning the legs of the stabilizing
11 device on the surface;

12 (d) aligning the firearm with a target; and

13 (e) pulling a trigger of the firearm to shoot the
14 target wherein the stabilizing device reduces vibration in
15 the firearm to allow for a more accurate shot.

1 67. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 66 wherein in steps (d)
2 and (e), the side arms reduce vibrations in the firearm in
3 a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the
4 firearm formed by a barrel of the firearm.

1 68. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 66 wherein the forward
2 arm extends outward from the bracket in a direction
3 parallel to a longitudinal axis of the firearm formed by a
4 barrel of the firearm and, wherein in step (e), the forward
5 arm reduces vibrations in the firearm parallel to the
6 longitudinal axis of the firearm.

1 69. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 66 wherein a scope is
2 attached to the firearm, wherein before step (d), the
3 firearm is aligned with a target using the scope and
4 wherein the stabilizing device reduces vibration of the
5 firearm and the scope to enable easier and better alignment
6 of the firearm with the target using the scope.

1 70. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 66 wherein the legs of
2 the stabilizing device are constructed of a plurality of
3 damping units removably connected together, wherein the
4 surface is vibrating and wherein in step (c), after
5 positioning the legs on the surface, the legs are removed
6 from the surface and the damping units of the legs are
7 removed or replaced with alternate damping units having
8 different damping characteristics and the legs are
9 positioned back on the surface to enable better reduction
10 of vibration.

1 71. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 66 wherein in step (e),
2 the stabilizing device reduces vibration of the firearm
3 caused by operation of the firearm.

1 72. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 66 wherein the surface
2 is vibrating and wherein in step (e), the stabilizing
3 device reduces a transfer of vibration from the surface to
4 the firearm.

1 73. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 72 wherein a scope is
2 mounted on the firearm, and wherein further in step (d),
3 the stabilizing device reduces the vibration of the firearm
4 and the scope so that the firearm can be aligned with the
5 target using the scope.

1 74. (Withdrawn) A method for reducing vibration in an
2 object positioned on a surface, which comprises the steps
3 of:

4 (a) providing a stabilizing device including a
5 bracket, legs having a first damping material connected to
6 the bracket and side arms having second damping material
7 connected to the bracket;

8 (b) connecting the object to the bracket;

9 (c) positioning the legs of the bracket on the
10 surface;

11 (d) aligning the object with a target; and

12 (e) operating the object wherein the stabilizing
13 device reduces the vibration in the object to enable a more
14 accurate operation of the object.

1 75. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 74 wherein in steps (d)
2 and (e), the side arms reduce vibrations in the object in
3 a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the
4 object.

1 76. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 74 wherein a forward
2 arm extends outward from the bracket in a direction
3 parallel to a longitudinal axis of the object and, wherein
4 in step (e), the forward arm reduces vibrations in the
5 object parallel to the longitudinal axis of the object.

1 77. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 74 wherein the legs of
2 the stabilizing device are constructed of a plurality of
3 damping units removably connected together, wherein the
4 surface is vibrating and wherein in step (c), after
5 positioning the legs on the surface, the legs are removed
6 from the surface and the damping units of the legs are
7 removed or replaced with alternate damping units having
8 different damping characteristics and the legs are
9 positioned back on the surface to enable better reduction
10 of vibration.

1 78. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 74 wherein in step (e),
2 the stabilizing device reduces vibration in the object
3 caused by operation of the object.

1 79. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 74 wherein the surface
2 is vibrating and wherein in step (e), the stabilizing
3 device reduces a transfer of vibration from the surface to
4 the object.

1 80. (New) The device of Claim 1 wherein the first damping
2 material is positioned on the legs to reduce vibrations in
3 the bracket in a first direction and wherein the second
4 damping material reduces vibration in the bracket in a
5 second direction different from the first direction.